



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series II: Harold P. Manson File (Zionism Files), 1940-1949, undated.

Sub-series A: Main Manson File, 1940-1949.

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Weizmann, Dr. Chaim, 1945.



TELEPHONE FROM DR. WEITZMANN

SAT. Sept. 15, 1945 - 5 P.M.

EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS:

You must see the new baalboos because my people here expect encouragement from him - not the part he gave before needing a half million soldiers etc. Now is the time -- I was endeavoring to see Byrnes (?) here -- so far he does not want to see me. Later may be too late -- Anything to be done in the way of encouragement must be done now and there. We are seeing many people -- seems halukah is being considered -- If you people can persuade chief to be morally interested it will go a long way -

Rumor that our man not too friendly -- Man there must send message to man number one or number two.

I have seen Cohen twice - he is feeble but probably doing all he thinks he can.

Encouragement must be clear.

The chief must say he is prepared to help - all we need is that he is ready to take responsibility not military - not political but financial.





Exchange of greetings:

Telephone from Dr. Weitzman  
Sat. Sep. 15-45 - 5 PM.

You must see the new haalbos. because my people here expect encouragement from him - not the sort he gave before needing a 1/2 million soldiers etc. ~~and~~

Now is the time - I was endeavoring to see Sydney? here - so far ~~he~~ does not want to see me. Later may be too late - Anything to be done in way of encouragement must be done now & there. We are doing seeing many people - seems Halukah is being considered. If you people can persuade chief to be morally interested it will go a long way -

WRHS



Rumor that our man not too friendly -  
Man there must send message to man <sup>number</sup> one or number two.

I have seen Cohen has been twice - he is feeble but probably doing all he thinks he can.

Encouragement must be clear -

The chief must say he is prepared to keep - all we need is that he is ready to take responsibility not military - not political but financial -

216 211211 22112

Adler



Weizmann

LONDON September 19, 1945

(Rec'd Sept. 20)

NLT ABBA HILLEL SILVER  
CARE AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL  
342 MADISON AVENUE NEWYORKCIY

ARE GREATLY PERTURBED PERSISTENT PRESS REPORTS REGARDING  
GOVERNMENTS INTENTION MAINTAIN WHITEPAPER WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS  
STOP PLEASE SPEAK TO ME TOMORROW EVENING DORCHESTER REGARDS

CHAIM WEIZMANN





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# RADIOGRAM

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ROA  
(September 20, 1945)

CHAIM WEIZMANN  
DORECHESTER HOTEL  
LONDON (England)

WILL TELEPHONE FRIDAY MORNING EIGHT NEWYORK TIME

REGARDS

WRHS



SILVER

FULL-RATE MESSAGE UNLESS MARKED OTHERWISE

Sender's Name and Address

(Not to be transmitted) American Zionist Emergency Council



**We Do Not Want  
To Return  
To The Past**



*By* **CHAIM WEIZMANN**





*Dr. Weizmann, the president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, spent several months in Palestine during the winter of 1944 and spring of 1945. The article which follows, translated from the Hebrew original, is one of the major public statements made by Dr. Weizmann during his visit and sets forth clearly both the Jewish situation today and the precise nature of Zionist objectives.*



DURING this visit to Palestine I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the land and see for myself what has been accomplished in it during the course of the war. I have observed with pride and joy the industries which have sprung up in connection with the war effort and the growth of both old and new villages. My personal contact with those who have built these pioneer enterprises has made it clear to me once again that the motive force behind all their efforts—as behind the entire Zionist program of reconstruction—is profound concern for the survival of the Jewish people as a whole. We do not return to the land merely to assure ourselves as individuals of a livelihood, of comfort, or security. We are brought here, we are sustained in our labors here, by the vision of the redemption of our people. Everywhere, both in town and country, both among established collective villages and in fledgling youth groups, I found the same heart-warming readiness, the same passionate desire to make room for newcomers, for more and more of them, for all the remnant of Israel surviving in the lands of massacre. As I went through the length and breadth of the land it was, indeed, borne in upon me that, along with its Jewish inhabitants, the land itself seemed to be summoning the surviving remnant of European Jewry. Its great stretches of waste and uninhabited soil are proof of its ability to absorb multitudes yet to come.

It is our aim to do far more than save a limited number of scattered individuals. We think in terms of the



salvation of all the surviving Jews of Europe. And our ultimate aim is more even than that. Zionism has never been merely a philanthropic movement to rescue Jewish individuals or groups for whom existence in their native lands has become unbearable. The objective of Zionism is the salvation of the Jewish people as a whole. For as long as Jews are everywhere a minority they cannot be certain anywhere that they will be spared the fate that has devastated the Jews of Europe.

We have seen strange and disturbing things in the last few months. Internal developments in the liberated countries of both western and eastern Europe have made it clear that victory does not and will not automatically bring with it the golden age of peace and happiness for which weary mankind longs. The new world is being brought forth with dreadful birth pangs, and the shape it will assume is still hidden from us. But there is one thing of which we may be certain: bitter civil strife awaits almost everyone of the peoples of Europe emerging from beneath the conqueror's yoke. In the light of this unhappy prospect we have the gravest premonitions with regard to the future of the Jewish survivors. They have been fortunate enough to escape slaughter at the hands of the Nazis, but what will be their fate now? Are they once more to be a football kicked about by rival factions, a scapegoat used to divert the bitterness and disillusionment of the masses? Are they once again to be ground between the wheels of history?



I DO NOT understand how experienced and responsible statesmen can fail to grasp the dreadful lesson of the last few years of Jewish history. We, as Jews and Zionists, hope and believe that out of the great tragedy of our time there will evolve a world order more just and more noble than that buried beneath the ruins of Europe. We whose spiritual roots are in the books of the prophets of Israel must inevitably have this faith. But, devout as our faith is, we dare not divert our attention for a moment from the bitter realities of the present. It is not desperation or exaggerated pessimism but clear-eyed evaluation of facts that brings us to the Zionist conclusion: There is no other solution for the Jewish question than the re-establishment of the Jewish people in its historic land.

The course of events in the liberated areas, notably in the democratic countries, has demonstrated that during the Nazi occupation new forces came into being with economic interests that set them squarely against all attempts to restore Jews to their former status. The shopkeepers who bought Jewish stores from the Nazis will not return them to their original owners; the lawyers, the doctors, the engineers, who profited by the elimination of skilful Jewish competitors, will not aid the latter to recover their former professional practice. And there is still another force to be reckoned with, even more significant and more fundamental. The poisonous seeds of anti-Semitism have been systematically sown by the Nazis in the minds



of the youth of all occupied countries. It will take generations for this poison to disappear.

IT IS obvious that Jews cannot possibly return to the past; the world they lived in is gone. But —more than that—*we do not want to return to the past*. During these difficult years Jews have attained national maturity. Groups that were distant from Zionism have drawn close to it. I know that I speak in the name of the great masses of Jews in the liberated countries and of those brave thousands who are still fighting in the underground—I know that I speak in their name when I say that we are determined to take our fate in our own hands and put an end to our age-long dependence upon the whims and wishes of others. No matter how difficult the road before us may be, we cannot now be prevented from achieving national emancipation and from putting an end once and for all to that anomalous condition of national homelessness which is the primary cause of our people's tragic fate.

During the last few years the Zionist movement has stated its political aims clearly and publicly. It has asked "that the gates of Palestine be opened; that the Jewish Agency be vested with control of immigration into Palestine and with the necessary authority for upbuilding the country, including the development of its unoccupied and uncultivated lands; and that Palestine be established as a Jewish Commonwealth in-



tegrated in the structure of the new democratic world.” An article of mine in *Foreign Affairs* for January 1942 set forth this program and its background explicitly and unequivocally. No additional commentaries or explanations are needed now. We have, let me add, acquired many friends who have helped us in these trying days and who are prepared to continue their aid to our cause as we draw nearer to the final political decision.

No discussion of our program and problems can be satisfactory unless it emphasizes the crying need for large Jewish immigration into Palestine at this moment. Hundreds of thousands of Jews in the liberated parts of the European continent are now tremulously waiting for the opportunity to go to Palestine. Their material situation is indescribably bad. Frightening reports reach us about children swollen with hunger, women and old people completely broken and worn. We hear of heroic young men and women straining to come to Palestine—eager to join the ranks of its builders. For five years they lived in the shadows of death, facing incessant dangers, sustained only by the hope that the day would come when they would make their way to Palestine. They dare not be disappointed now. Nor should we forget the great psychological importance of immediate arrangement for large-scale immigration. As soon as the first large transport leaves, the hopes of the multitudes left behind will be revived and they will find waiting more endurable.



The trials to which Jews have been subjected in the last few years are without parallel in the experience of mankind. A great part of our people has been destroyed, but our people's will to live has not been broken. It has even been strengthened in the furnace of affliction. It is our task to translate this revitalized will into the language of factual achievement. Justifiably, we ask the world to aid us. Of ourselves we must ask even more. May it be given to us to be worthy of the great burden the history of Israel has placed upon our shoulders.



American Zionist Emergency Council  
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